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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/566,863

03/27/2007

Nureddin Ashammakhi

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KENYON & KENYON LLP
ONE BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10004

EXAMINER

XIE, XIAOZHEN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1646

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/03/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/566,863	Applicant(s) ASHAMMAKHI ET AL.	
	Examiner XIAOZHEN XIE	Art Unit 1646	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-5, 11, 13, 15-17, 19 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 6-10, 12, 14, 18 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20060505</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Application, Amendments, And/Or Claims

The Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed 5 May 2006 has been entered.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election of Group I, claims 1, 2, 6-10, 12, 14, 18 and 21, in the response filed 14 December 2009 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 3-5, 11, 13, 15-17, 19 and 20 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected inventions, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 12, 14, 18 and 21 are under examination.

Information Disclosure Statement

The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609.04(a) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Oath/Declaration

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The oath or declaration is defective because: the filing date for Finland 20031120 (31 June 2003) is inconsistent to the USPTO record (31 July 2003).

A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code (for example, on page, 6, line 28). Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 6-10, 12, 14, 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schryver et al. (US 2003/0055511 A1, Pub. Date: Mar. 20, 2003, reference provided in the Requirement for Restriction/Election mailed 10/15/2009).

Schryver et al. teach a shaped particle for use in an array of interlocking particles to repair, replace, improve or augment a bone deficiency (see Abstract). Schryver et al.

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teach that the interlocking of particles provides support for mechanical forces while maintaining stability and assisting in bone healing [0121]. Schryver et al. teach that the array of particles interlocked with one another comprise a bone material, e.g., demineralized bone allograft [0039], or are a mixture of particles comprised of different materials selected from the group consisting of demineralized bone material, ceramic, calcium salt, bioactive glass, polymer, polymer/ceramic composite, polymer/glass composite, and mixtures thereof [0043]. Schryver et al. teach that the particles made from bioabsorbable, biocompatible polymers filled with ceramic or glass can boost the osteoconductivity, and allow control of mechanical properties, such as strength and stiffness [0142]. Schryver et al. teach that the particle further comprises a biological agent, such as a bisphosphonate, a growth factor (e.g., PDGF, TGF- β , BMP, etc.) [0040]. Schryver et al. teach the shaped particles in the form of a cylindrical block (see “Push-thru Test” in Examples, [0229]). Thus, Schryver et al. anticipate the instant invention.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

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A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 22, 32, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 50 of copending Application No. 10/568,890. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other, because the claims of the copending Application No. 10/568,890 are drawn to a porous bioabsorbable, bioactive and load-bearing composite medical device structure having a bioabsorbable matrix and reinforcing structure; wherein the reinforcing structure formed by reinforcing bioactive ceramic elements is included in the continuous fibrous elements of the composite medical device structure, and a bioabsorbable matrix formed by bioabsorbable polymer matrix material is also included in the continuous fibrous elements of the composite medical device structure (i.e., the medical device is self-reinforced); and wherein a bioactive agent, e.g., BMPs (having anti-osteolytic activity), cytokines, growth factors, and angiogenic factors, is dispersed in the bioabsorbable polymer component of the medical device. Thus, the medical device of the copending Application No. 10/568,890 differs in scope from that of the instant claimed implant device.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Conclusion

NO CLAIM IS ALLOWED.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xiaozhen Xie, Ph.D whose telephone number is 571-272-5569. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary B. Nickol, Ph.D. can be reached on 571-272-0835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Xiaozhen Xie/
Xiaozhen Xie, Ph.D.
February 26, 2010